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NO TESTING FOR KIDS BELOW 5 ON INT'L ARRIVALS TO INDIA

Starting Friday, children will be exempt from pre- and post-arrival testing, but will be subject to existing quarantine norms

15-DAY POST-JAB SCHEDULE MUST ELAPSE

The Health Ministry said symptomatic children will have to undergo testing and be treated according to protocol. Besides, the fliers must have marked 15 days since the completion of the vaccination schedule, the ministry said, adding the review of the February 17 rules was done by taking a risk-based approach amid rising global vaccination rates

CONTACT TRACING OF THE SYMPTOMATIC

- Passengers found to be symptomatic during the screening at the airports will be isolated. If they test positive, their contacts will be identified and managed according to protocol, the rules say
- Fliers from countries that have reciprocal certification pacts with India, if they are fully vaccinated, need not do self-monitoring

1075

HELPLINE FOR FLIERS UNDERGOING SELF-MONITORING OF HEALTH

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

MEA, CDS differ on construction by China along LAC

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

AT a time when India and China are locked in a tense border stand-off, the Ministry of External Affairs and the country's senior-most uniformed officer on Thursday made contradictory statements on Chinese construction activity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The foreign office said it has neither accepted such illegal occupation of its territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims. Later, speaking at a media conclave, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said a Pentagon report on Chinese construction in Indian territory is not true.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has taken note of the US Department of Defense's report and always conveyed its strong protest to such activities through diplomatic means. The US report said China built a large 100-home civilian village inside the disputed territory between Tibet Autonomous Region and Arunachal Pradesh.

Bagchi added that the "government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

However, General Rawat had a different take. "Chinese are building villages, possibly for billeting and locating their civilians or for the military in the future all along the LAC, particularly after the recent face-offs. But this present controversy that has erupted that Chinese have come across into our territory and built a new village is not true," he said.

"It is just that their old infrastructure is being redeveloped along the LAC on their side. I would not call it muscle flexing. We are noticing permanent structures on the Chinese side, so if we have to be permanently there, so be it," the CDS said.

Gen Rawat affirmed that India is well prepared for any misadventure, and are stocked up for a long winter.

LIFE AND BUSINESS HIT

People move to safety from a flooded locality at Kovilambakkam in Chennai on Thursday. The continous rain overnight and throughout the day forced residents to stay indoors and flooded several areas in the city. Power shutdown and waterlogged roads left residents hapless and disrupted business | ASHWIN PRASATH | P7

Bengaluru gets the chills on rained-out day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALUREANS woke up to a chilly Thursday morning as the maximum temperature dipped to below 20 degrees Celsius even as it rained through the day – the impact of a deep depression over the Tamil Nadu coast. According to met officials, heavy to very heavy rainfall warning alert has been issued for most parts of south-interior Karnataka for the next 4-5 days.

India Meteorological Department Bengaluru director incharge, Geeta Agnihotri, said this type of weather — rainfall with drop in temperature — is unusual for this time of November. She explained that winter months are normally January and February, while October-December is the post-monsoon period when winter starts to set in. CONTINUED ON: P2

COLD NOVEMBER

Lowest minimum
9.6°C on November 15, 1967

Highest maximum
33°C on November 29, 2017

On November 22, 2020
City recorded a min of 14.8°C

On November 26, 2019
City recorded a min of 16.7°C

MODI

PM TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF SUBURBAN RAIL

CM Basavaraj Bommai said the PM has agreed to visit Bengaluru for two days. Apart from launching the suburban rail project work, Modi will inaugurate the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics building on the Jnana Bharati campus of Bangalore University | P4

Don't worry about Bitcoin probe: PM to CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday advised Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai not to bother about the controversy over the alleged Bitcoin scam, and to instead focus on development of the state. The Bitcoin case has snowballed into a political controversy in the state with the BJP and Congress leaders hurling allegations against each other.

Speaking to media persons in New Delhi, Bommai said the Bitcoin case probe was not discussed during his meeting with the Prime Minister, but added that when he tried to raise the issue, the PM asked him not to bother about it and to work with integrity and boldness for the development of the state.

"It was not discussed. When I raised the issue, the PM told me not to bother about it and instead focus on working for the welfare of people with integrity and boldness," he said responding to a question.

This was his first meeting with the PM after the Bitcoin case probe became a political controversy and the Assembly bypolls in which the BJP failed to retain Hanagal seat in CM's home district, though it managed to win one seat with a big margin. "Modi said these are common in polls. He suggested that instead of thinking about this, we should focus on the 2023 Assembly election and work towards it," the CM said.

Bommai, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday night, said the central agencies will have more information about the case and Shah too did not discuss the issue with him.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Farmers attempt suicide in stir against road work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A farmers' protest against acquisition of their fertile land for a road project between Halaga and Mache, on the outskirts of Belagavi city, turned violent after some of the protesters tried to commit suicide and one of them attempted self-immolation. As soon as farmer Akash Angolkar set himself on fire during the protest, several protesters came to his rescue and doused the fire. According to sources, Angolkar has sustained at least 20 per cent burns and is being treated at a local hospital.

Several other farmers also tried to commit suicide by using sickles and climbing trees, but they were stopped by the police. When the situation slipped out of control during the protest, the police took many of the protesting farmers into custody.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Ready for harvest
The protest was launched at Mache on Thursday when the project work was being taken up in the fields where standing crop was ready for harvest.

Tribal woman farmpreneur leads the way

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

FROM being a tribal dweller in the forest to becoming an farming entrepreneur, supplying fresh fruits, vegetables and cereals through online and direct-to-home platforms, 50-year-old **Premadasappa** has come a long way to become an inspiration for other tribals. Belonging to the Jenu Kuruba tribe, she moved out of the Mastigudi forests in HD Kote taluk under the voluntary tribal relocation programme of the Forest Department, aided by the Wildlife Conservation Society, in 2008-09.

She not only works with her husband on her three-acre land in HD Kote in Mysuru district, but is also part of Forest Department committees to interact with and encourage other tribals to come out of the forests voluntarily. CONTINUED ON: P5

PAK FAIL TO WADE THROUGH RUN RAIN; KNOCKED OUT OF CUP

Matthew Wade hits a six in WC T20 semi-final match on Thursday | P19

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